

Response to Election of Species
Application No. 10/601,646

REMARKS

The Examiner requests that Applicants select one of the following species for prosecution on the merits:

Species A	-	Figure 1
Species B	-	Figure 2
Species C	-	Figure 3
Species D	-	One embodiment of One of Figures 5-18
Species E	-	Figure 19
Species F-N	-	Figures 20-28
Species O-W	-	Figures 31-39
Species X-Z	-	Figures 4a-4c

In response to the election requirement, Applicant wishes to elect species P, corresponding to figure 32. This election is made with traverse.

Applicant is a sole inventor who has developed a basic idea with some variations to different features of a weapon stock and method of making such item. A great deal of the inventor's time and personal resources have been invested in the invention and the patenting of the basic idea and certain variations of its features. Claims 1-25 describe a weapon stock (with a secondary lower forestock) and subsidiary features, while claims 26-50 describe the method of adapting a weapon stock by the addition of the second lower forestock. Claim 51 independently claims the second lower forestock component which may be added to an existing weapon, and finally claim 52 covers the resulting weapon stock formed by adding the second lower forestock to an existing weapon stock.

Independent claim 1 is the most important to the inventor and covers the basic idea and would arguably cover an existing working stock modified by the addition of the second lower forestock. While the drawings indicate several different embodiments, all the claims are dependent on one of the independent claims and thus clearly have common inventive subject matter. It is thus difficult for the inventor to see how they may be regarded as separate species, and more significantly, how each of them would require separate filings and huge expense to the inventor. The inventor believes that the time and effort required by the Examiner to search and examine the various modifications of his basic invention is far less than the financial impact on the inventor by the requirement of the Examiner for separate filings on individual variations of the basic idea.

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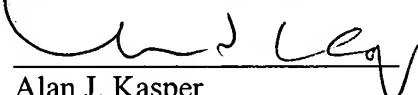
Further, in response to the Examiner's requirement, the inventor submits that species P may be applicable to independent claims 1, 26, 51 and 52. Dependent claim 25 is particularly concerned with the features in Fig. 32, but claims 2-13 also relate to features that would govern a weapon stock with the features of claim 25. Similarly, the features of claims 27-38, 48 and 50 would govern the method of making a rifle stock with those features.

Applicants reserve all rights under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application to the non-elected group of claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration of the election requirement is believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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